

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2933

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT/OPPOSITION DIALOGUE

1. 1. NDP APRIL 24 REQUESTED MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT PAK AND KIM YONGSAM TO DISCUSS PRESENT AND FUTURE NATIONAL SECURITY IN VIEW CHANGES IN INDOCHINA SITUATION AND KIM IL-SUNG'S VISIT TO PRC. NDP LEADERS HAVE PROMISED TO REFRAIN FROM HARSH CRITICISM OR ROKIIN ORDER TO IMPROVE CLIMATE FOR MEETING.

2. DRP-YUCHONGHOE RESPONSE HAS BEEN MODERATELY RECEPTIVE. PRESS QUOTES DRP POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN PAK CHUN-KUU AS SAYING GOVERNMENT PARTIES WELCOME OPPOSITION ATTITUDE AND WILL REFRAIN FROM MAKING PROVOCATIVE REMARKS AGAINST NDP. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT PARTY LEADERS HAVE WARNED OPPOSITION AGAINST USING POSSIBLE SUMMIT MEETING FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES AND HAVE CONTINUED TO CRITICIZE NDP TACTICS, E.G. PLAYING UP SUICIDE OF SNU STUDENT KIM SANG-CHIN.

3. CONCERNING OPPOSITION OFFER, NDP FLOOR LEADER KIM HYONG-IL TOLD US THAT PARTY WOULD LIKE TNSGET AGREEMENT FROM PAK THAT HE WILL AMEND CONSTITUTION
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AT END OF HIS TERM, BUT THAT HE UNDER NO ILLUSIONS THAT PRESIDENT WILL DO SO. KIM SAID THAT NDP WILL BE QUIET FOR FEW XDAYS UNTIL PAK MAKES DECISION TO MEET OR NOT. GOT ASSEMBLYMAN TOLD US PRESIDENT WILL

PROBABLY MAKE DECISION SHORTLY, IN MEETING WITH KIM
CHONG-PIL AND KCIA DIRECTOR SIN CHIK-SU.

4. COMMENT: DESPITE TENTATIVE GOVERNMENT ND
OPPOSITION MOVES TOWARD DIALOGUE AND MODERATION, NDP
OFFICIAL POSITION REMAINS THAT ROKG IS EXAGGERATING
SECURITY THREAT AND THAT IN ANY CASE A MORE DEMOCRATIC
GOVERNMENT IS NECESSARY TO INSURE NATIONAL UNITY AND
PREVENT DISRUPTIVE DISSENT. HOWEVER, OPPOSITION
FIGURES ARE DIVIDED ON ASSESSMENT EXTENT AND SERIOUSNESS
OF POPULAR DISCONTENT WITH PRESENT GOVERNMENT, HOW
DISCONTENT WILL BE EXPRESSED IN FACE INCREASINGLY
STRONG ROKG CONTROLS AND PROPER ROLE OF NDP IN
CHANGING INTERNATIONAL PICTURE.

5. ALTHOUGH MOTIVES AND EXPECTATIONS FOR NDP OFFER
AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSE ARE NOT CLEAR AND PAK/KIM
MEETING STILL FAR FROM DEFINITE, IN PRIVATE CONTACTS
WITH GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION WE ARE
ENCOURAGING PROCESS OF DIALOGUE.
SNEIDER

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